

**State Board of Education
November 17, 2009
Item J**

Team: Commissioner's Office; Standards and Assessment Team

Discussion Topic: Vermont Effective Schools Study (see: <http://rootsofsuccess.wordpress.com/>)

Alignment with Goals:

- SBE Goals I, II, III
- Department Goal: Closing the state's poverty-based achievement gap

Statutory Authority: 16 V.S.A. §165

Background Information:

The Vermont Department of Education, with the help of an advisory panel representing K-12 schools and higher education, studied what it takes for schools—and therefore students, particularly low-income students—to succeed. A combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods was employed to identify the characteristics common to effective schools. Through a large-scale survey of more than 2000 Vermont teachers in 87 schools across the state as well as intensive site visits to three K-6 schools that are “beating the odds” (schools whose Reading and Mathematics scores on state assessments defy expectations and exceed those of other schools with similar demographics), we discovered a set of attitudes and beliefs as well as specific school practices that are associated with student, particularly low-income, success. These characteristics form the foundation for school effectiveness and are essential to ensuring that all children, regardless of background or socioeconomic status, reach their full potential.

Purpose of Discussion:

- Give members of the State Board an opportunity to hear directly from staff at two of the three schools involved in the study;
- Q&A with staff members;
- Discussion of the study's implications for future support for schools.

Cost Implications:

NA at this time

Staff Available: Gail Taylor, Susan Hayes; Panelists from two participating schools